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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from Weimar

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT Prior to 31 October and December 1951

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DATE PREPARED 21 January 1952

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

RETURN TO CIA

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SOURCE

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☐ 1. Between 20 and 31 December 1951, the Flak Kaserne on Ettersburgerstrasse, Weimar (N 51/J 57), was occupied by about 900 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About half of the troops were recruits. The windows of all troop quarters were lighted at dusk. Source observed 300 to 500 troops drilling with small arms, practicing with machine guns and engaging in record practice at the firing ranges in groups of about 50 soldiers.

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 On 11 December, the AA gun emplacements at the foot of the Ettersberg and at the gas works were empty; but could be reoccupied because the gun positions and the crew shelters were still intact. (1)

2. Between 20 and 31 December, the eastern section of the Tannenberg Kaserne on Ettersburgerstrasse was occupied by about 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. About 50 percent of the troops were recruits. Groups of up to 50 soldiers were engaged in small-arms drill, close-combat training, training in firing with machine guns, and practice marches. An average of eight driving-school trucks were observed daily, with each truck occupied by 5 or 6 soldiers. Twenty trucks were parked in front of the garages and in the barracks yard.

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(2)

3. Between 20 and 31 December, the central section of the Tannenberg Kaserne on Ettersburgerstrasse quartered about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. At least half of the troops were recruits. The soldiers performed maintenance work on motor vehicles and received physical training in the billeting area. On 18 December, about 250 troops with rifles were seen marching from the installation to the drill field on the Ettersberg. Seven driving-school trucks, each carrying 5 to 7 unarmed soldiers with red-bordered black

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CLASSIFICATION

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epaulets, were daily observed there.

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4. Between 20 and 31 December, the western section of the Tarnenber Kaserne on Bittersburgerstrasse was occupied by about 750 troops, mostly recruits, who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Up to 400 troops were daily observed receiving infantry training with small arms, and 100 to 120 troops practicing firing with 15 mortars at the drill field at the Bittersberg, which soldiers of this unit usually used for training purposes.

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5. Between 20 and 31 December, the eastern section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne on Bittersburgerstrasse was occupied by about 500 troops, mostly recruits, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Source observed 100 to 120 soldiers engaged in drill, training in firing with small arms, and instruction with aiming circles.

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6. Since early December, the central section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne on Bittersburgerstrasse has been occupied by about 500 troops, mostly recruits. About half of the soldiers wore black-bordered black epaulets; half, red-bordered red epaulets; and a few, black-bordered red epaulets. All sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. No training activity was noticed between 3 and 17 December, but an average of 100 to 120 soldiers wearing all three aforementioned types of epaulets were seen walking between the troop quarters. Drill involving about 150 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets was seen for the first time on 18 December.

7. Between 20 and 31 December, the western section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne contained a military hospital. A German woman, employee of the hospital stated that an increased volume of patients between 1 and 18 December necessitated the addition of 50 beds to the original 300. About 50 to 70 medical orderlies, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, were seen in the installation.

8. Between 20 and 31 December, the section of the Nachrichten Kaserne on Weibnitz Allee was occupied by about 900 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Almost two thirds of the soldiers were recruits. The section of the installation on Duorerstrasse was occupied by 20 to 30 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Up to 500 troops with black-bordered black epaulets were seen daily receiving infantry and close-combat training in the billeting area, and small groups of 5 to 10 soldiers with the same type of epaulets practiced stringing telephone lines in the Weibicht Forest.

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(4)

9. Between 20 and 31 December, the barracks installation at Nohra airfield was occupied by from 1,300 to 2,000 troops, including some with red-bordered black epaulets, black-bordered red epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets. Following a series of talks with local residents in early December, source believed that, on 19 December, the installation housed an army headquarters with a staff of about 400 men; a signal and radio unit of about 150 men; an infantry guard unit of about 150 men; a unit of about 400 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets; and about 700 Soviet Control Commission personnel. Between 16 and 19 December, source observed 60 to 70 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets who were engaged in field training in the adjoining terrain, and about 20 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets who practiced stringing telephone lines.

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10. In early December, source learned from a businessman who fled from Weimar that until 30 October the Elephant Hotel, Weimar, housed a mess for the army headquarters of the Thuringia area. The mess catered to 200 to 300 men daily. A strict ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages was imposed on all Soviet personnel in July. Until late October, Colonel Ivanov (fnu) was mess officer; and Colonel Tusin (fnu) was chief of the staff. The army headquarters moved to Mohra airfield in September. (6)

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Comments

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- (1) The information indicates no change in the occupation of the Flak Kaserne. Components of the 13th AAA Div are confirmed there.

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- (2) [redacted] fairly definitely indicate that the unidentified mortar regiment of the 20th Gds Recs Div from Weimar-Mohra has moved to the eastern section of the Tannenberg Kaserne. The identity of the unit in the western section of the Tannenberg Kaserne has not been determined. This section was vacated by German Volkspolizei personnel. The vehicles observed there belong to the 13th AAA Div.

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- (3) There have been no changes in the occupation of the central section of the Tannenberg Kaserne.

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- (4) The information indicates no change in the occupation of the installation concerned.

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- (5) With the exception of the Hq Eighth Gds Army, the identity of troops in the installation at Weimar-Mohra has not been determined. The strength estimate given in paragraph 9 amounts to only 50 percent of previous estimates. The motor vehicle numbers observed belong to various units known to be stationed in the Weimar area.
- (6) Gds Major General V.A. Belyavski has been carried as chief of staff of the Eighth Gds Army since 1944. He was last confirmed by a deserter in 1949. There is a possibility that Belyavski has been replaced by Colonel Tusin (fnu) who is reported for the first time.

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